Researching The Internet:
A Training Workshop for Librarians

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The Internet as A Tool for Research

- A worldwide network of computer networks.
- It is an interconnection of large and small networks around the globe.
- The Internet began in 1962 as a computer network for the U.S. military and over time has grown into a global communication tool of many thousands of computer networks that share a common addressing scheme.
- Unlike online services, which are centrally controlled, the Internet is decentralized by design.
- Each Internet computer, called a host, is independent. Its operators can choose which Internet services to use and which local services to make available to the global Internet community.

Source: Webopedia - http://webopedia.internet.com/

In this presentation, we shall look at…

- Free but Quality Internet Resources
- Librarianship-focused Internet Resources
- Types of Search Tools
  - Subject Directories
  - Search Tools
  - Meta-search Tools
  - Invisible Web
- Methods of Searching the Internet

Subject Directories (Academic/Professional)

1. Librarian's Index to the Internet
2. Internet Public Library
3. BUBL (Bulletin Board for Libraries)
4. Infomine

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http://lii.org/

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http://www.ipl.org/

IPL is a public service organization and a learning/teaching environment at the University of Michigan School of Information.

Slide 1

http://bubl.ac.uk/link/index.html

Bulletin Board for Libraries, provides the best single collection and "the first address" in our subject area.

Slide 2

http://infomine.ucr.edu/

Slide 3

Other Subject Directories

- WWW Virtual Library - http://www.vlib.org/
  An expert-run catalog of sections of the web.
- One World - Nations Online -
  http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/
  A list of virtual gateways to the countries of the world.
- Mina Rees Library: Selected Web Sites -
  http://library.gc.cuny.edu/Research/
  Subject index to 15,000 informative sites, maintained by the library of the City University of New York.
- PointClickSurf -http://www.referencepage.com/referencepage.html
  Directory of directories and other reference sites, organized by information category.

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Subject Directories (Commercial and General)

1. Google.com
2. About.com
3. Looksmart.com
4. Yahoo.com

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http://directory.google.com/

Slide 6

Librarianship-related Directories

1. Library OPACs
2. Internet Resources for Professional and Individual Development

http://www.librarytechnology.org/libwebcats/

http://www.loc.gov/

http://www.sla.org/chapter/ctor/toolbox/resource/cover.htm

http://www.itcompany.com/inforetriever/

Other Great Web Sites Include

- UNESCO Libraries Portal -
  http://www.unesco.org/webworld/portal_bib/
  Directory of online resources on librarianship and library science, as well as the websites of individual institutions.
- Libraryspot.com
  a wealth of reference resources
  http://www.libraryspot.com

Search Tools

These are tools that locate relevant web pages sorted either by relevance or date. They are generally called Search engines e.g.

http://www.google.com/

Notice other things you can search from here

The Best ways of Searching Google.

- Either of the words, use word OR word
- Phrases, use "…" or word-word e.g. search-engine
- Synonyms, use ~word e.g. ~library
- Include word in the result, use +word
- Exclude word from the result, use –word
- Words in-between, Word*word for e.g. women*nigeria
- Narrow results by government sites, use Site:gov (edu for educational institutions, mil for military…)
- Narrow to the word in the title, use Allintitle:word
- Restrict the results to the file type Filetype:pdf
- Most of these features can be found in the ADVANCED search Interface

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How About Doing Simple Things Like …

Calculations

100+89+65+923+12

100 + 89 + 65 + 923 + 12 = 1 189

Search for documents containing the terms 100+89+65+923+12

Define: Catalogue

Definitions of catalogue on the Web

Definitions

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http://www.google.com/unclesam

Search the entire week from the Google home page!

Other Good Search Engines

- http://www.alltheweb.com Search with a simple interface and huge database
- http://www.ask.com Ask Jeeves answers questions asked in plain English
- http://www.teoma.com it ranks sites partly by subject-specific popularity
- http://www.wisenut.com Index of 1.5 billion pages. Search results are clustered into categories.
- http://www.altavista.com Offers translation services and multimedia searches.

Meta-search Tools

Meta-search engines search several major engines at once. They act as a middle agent, passing on the query to the major search engines and then returning the results. E.g. **Vivisimo.com** and **I-une.com**

http://www.vivisimo.com

Organizes search results from 8 search engines and subject directories

http://www.i-une.com